

**Claim Amendments**

1. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a splitter that is locatable at a central office that comprises a plurality of lines;

wherein the splitter is configured to be connectable with a subset of the plurality of lines on a one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines;

wherein the central office comprises a main distribution frame and a switch, wherein the main distribution frame is coupled with a first line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the switch is coupled with a second line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the first line is different from the second line;

wherein the splitter is configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line without employment of a splitter shelf;

~~wherein the splitter comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter, wherein the second line is convertible from a plain old telephone service line to a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line on a basis of through employment of an individual unit that comprises the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines;~~

wherein the splitter provides a first signal path between the switch and the main distribution frame, wherein the splitter is configured to be installable on the subset of the plurality of lines without interruption of plain old telephone service on a particular line of the plurality of lines, wherein the particular line is different from every line of the subset of the plurality of lines and provides a second signal path that directly connects the switch with the main distribution frame.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the subset of the plurality of lines comprises the first line, the second line, and a third line, wherein the first line is different from the third line, wherein the second line is different from the third line;

wherein the first line comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line, wherein the second line comprises a plain old telephone service line, wherein the third line comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line; and

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter is configured to be connectable with the first line, the second line, and the third line as the individual unit in the central office, wherein the individual unit comprises the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter, the first line, the second line, and the third line.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first line comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line, wherein the second line comprises a plain old telephone service line; and

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter is configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line as the individual unit in the central office, wherein the individual unit comprises the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter, the first line, and the second line.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the switch comprises a plain old telephone service interface circuit, wherein the central office comprises a digital subscriber line multiplexor, wherein the digital subscriber line multiplexor is coupled with a third line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the first line is different from the third line, wherein the second line is different from the third line; and

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter is configured to be connectable with the first line, the second line, and the third line without employment of a splitter shelf.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first line comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line, wherein the second line comprises a plain old telephone service line;

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter comprises a low-pass filter, and wherein plain old telephone service is obtainable through connection of the low-pass filter with the first line and the second line.

7. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the main distribution frame comprises a plurality of wire wrap terminals; and

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter is configured to be mountable on a pair of wire wrap terminals of the plurality of wire wrap terminals.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the central office comprises a local telephone company switching center.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a splitter that is locatable at a central office that comprises a plurality of lines;

selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with a subset of the plurality of lines on a one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines;

wherein the central office comprises a main distribution frame and a switch, wherein the main distribution frame is coupled with a first line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the switch is coupled with a second line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the first line is different from the second line;

selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line without employment of a splitter shelf; and

~~wherein the splitter comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter, and~~

converting the second line of the subset of the plurality of lines from a plain old telephone service line to a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line on a basis of through employment of an individual unit that comprises the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines;

wherein the splitter provides a first signal path between the switch and the main distribution frame, wherein the splitter is configured to be installable on the subset of the plurality of lines without interruption of plain old telephone service on a particular line of the plurality of lines, wherein the particular line is different from every line of the subset of the plurality of lines and provides a second signal path that directly connects the switch with the main distribution frame.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the subset of the plurality of lines comprises the first line, the second line, and a third line, wherein the first line is different from the third line, wherein the second line is different from the third line, wherein the step of selecting the splitter that is locatable at the central office that comprises the plurality of lines and the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the subset of the plurality of lines on the one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines comprise the steps of:

selecting the first line to comprise a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line;

selecting the second line to comprise a plain old telephone service line;

selecting the third line to comprise a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line; and

selecting the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line, the second line, and the third line as the individual unit in the central office, wherein the individual unit comprises the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter, the first line, the second line, and the third line.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the splitter that is locatable at the central office that comprises the plurality of lines and the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the subset of the plurality of lines on the one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines comprise the steps of:

selecting the first line to comprise a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line;

selecting the second line to comprise a plain old telephone service line; and

selecting the ~~plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line~~ splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line as the individual unit in the central office, wherein the individual unit comprises the ~~plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line~~ splitter, the first line, and the second line.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the switch comprises a plain old telephone service interface circuit, wherein the central office comprises a digital subscriber line multiplexor, wherein the digital subscriber line multiplexor is coupled with a third line of the subset of the plurality of lines, wherein the first line is different from the third line, wherein the second line is different from the third line, and wherein the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line without employment of the splitter shelf comprises the step of:

selecting the ~~plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line~~ splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line, the second line, and the third line without employment of a splitter shelf.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first line comprises a plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line, wherein the second line comprises a plain old telephone service line, wherein the step of selecting the splitter that is locatable at the central office that comprises the plurality of lines and the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the subset of the plurality of lines on the one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines comprise the steps of:

selecting the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to comprise a low-pass filter; and

obtaining plain old telephone service through connection of the low-pass filter with the first line and the second line.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the main distribution frame comprises a plurality of wire wrap terminals, and wherein the step of selecting the splitter that is locatable at the central office that comprises the plurality of lines and the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the subset of the plurality of lines on the one-to-one basis between the splitter and the subset of the plurality of lines comprise the step of:

selecting the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to be configured to be mountable on a pair of wire wrap terminals of the plurality of wire wrap terminals.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the splitter that is locatable at the central office that comprises the plurality of lines comprises the step of:

selecting the central office to comprise a local telephone company switching center.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter employs a first mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal to obtain a plain old telephone service signal and a second mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the switch comprises a plain old telephone service interface circuit, wherein the central office comprises a digital subscriber line multiplexor that comprises an asymmetric digital subscriber line interface circuit;

wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter sends the plain old telephone service signal to the plain old telephone service interface circuit, wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter sends the second mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal to the asymmetric digital subscriber line interface circuit.

23. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, in combination with the main distribution frame, wherein the main distribution frame comprises a protector that is electrically connected with the first line, wherein the first line comprises a connector that is electrically connected with a connector of the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter;

wherein the protector shields the central office from potential over-voltage and/or over-current received from an outside plant.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter is configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line without employment of the splitter shelf to promote an increase in an amount of available space in a rack of the central office.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the individual unit comprises a module installable on the second line to convert the second line from the plain old telephone service line to the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:  
inputting a first mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal to the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to output a plain old telephone service signal and a second mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the switch comprises a plain old telephone service interface circuit, wherein the central office comprises a digital subscriber line multiplexor that comprises an asymmetric digital subscriber line interface circuit, the method further comprising the steps of:

employing the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to send the plain old telephone service signal to the plain old telephone service interface circuit;  
and

employing the plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter to send the second mixed plain old telephone service and asymmetric digital subscriber line signal to the asymmetric digital subscriber line interface circuit.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the first line comprises a connector that is electrically connected with a connector of the plain old telephone service and ~~asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter~~, wherein the main distribution frame comprises a protector, the method further comprising the step of:

electrically connecting the first line with the protector to shield the central office from potential over-voltage and/or over-current received from an outside plant.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the splitter to be configured to be connectable with the first line and the second line without employment of the splitter shelf comprises the step of:

promoting an increase in an amount of available space in a rack of the central office through connection of the plain old telephone service and ~~asymmetric digital subscriber line splitter~~ with the first line and the second line without employment of a splitter shelf.